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## Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God of grace, awaken the Members of this body to the opportunities of this new day. Help them to hear Your call to move forward and accomplish great things for Your glory. Lord, enable them to discover unused resources among themselves that they can mobilize dreams that have yet to be dreamed, talents that have yet to be awakened, and commitments that have yet to be made. Lord, kindle a divine light on the altar of their souls that will guide them in the pursuit of Your wisdom and truth. May they confidently face their duties knowing that You are their sufficient shield and defense. Make them willing to listen even to people with whom they expect to differ, united by the desire to represent You with exemplary conduct.

We pray in Your gracious Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, September 21, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, if any, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Interior appropriations bill. There will be no rollcall votes today. Senators should expect a vote or votes prior to the caucuses tomorrow.

At 3 o'clock, we will, as I have announced, return to the appropriations bill dealing with the interior. At that time, the two managers of the bill, Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator ALEXANDER, will be available to listen to Senators who want to speak on the bill or offer amendments. It is my understanding that Senator BINGAMAN has some amendments he wants to offer.

Senator FEINSTEIN was unable to be here on Friday because of the Jewish holiday. She will be here at 4 p.m. today. Between 3 and 4, whenever she gets here, Senator ALEXANDER, who is managing the bill with her, will be here to accept amendments. They have total trust of one another; that is, FEINSTEIN and ALEXANDER, and her not being here

should not in any way alleviate the need for anyone to come and offer an amendment. We have all night tonight to offer amendments, and we have all day tomorrow.

We have to move past this bill, and we are going to do it fairly quickly because we have to move the Defense appropriations bill and other things before the end of the month. We would hope sometime this week the work on the Finance Committee health care bill will be far enough down the road they will report something out. I don't know if they will do it this week. It is anticipated it will be this week, but things always take longer than we expect. The main thing, though, is that in the next 24 hours people should be offering amendments on this Interior bill if they have any to offer.

Would the Chair be good enough to announce morning business.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Mexico.

### INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I realize we are not on the Interior appropriations bill at this point; we are in morning business, but I wanted to speak briefly about three amendments I plan to offer, when we do go on the Interior appropriations bill, and to alert colleagues about those amendments and, hopefully, persuade them that they are meritorious.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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